GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:261
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
LAND UNDER CROP PROTECTION PROGRAMMES
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to data compiled by the Agrochemicals Promotion Group (APG) and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), only 20 per cent of the 143 billion hectares of agricultural land is covered under the Crop Protection Programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the response of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has examined the data/suggestions of APG and ASSOCHAM;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the necessary steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)to(e):The Agrochemicals Policy Group (APG) have suggested to increase area under crop protection from 20% of the cultivated area of over 140 million hectares of cultivated land. They have inter alia pointed out low pesticide usage in the country as a cause for low yields. Government of India has launched a scheme entitled "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" since 1991-92 by adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the cardinal principle of plant protection strategy in the overall crop protection programme. Under this scheme, 31 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) in 28 States and one Union Territory have been established with the mandate to impart training to Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Officers and farmers, pest/disease monitoring, production and release of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides. IPM packages of practices of pest/disease management in 77 major crops have been developed and circulated to all States/UTs for use by extension functionaries and farmers. Since 2007, awareness campaigns against spurious pesticides and for 100% seed treatment have been conducted regularly by the Government of India in coordination with the State Governments.